

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 26, 2016

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2016

SENATE BILL

No. 1363

Introduced by Senator Monning
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)

February 19, 2016

An act to amend Section 35650 of, and to add Sections 35630 and 35631 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to coastal resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1363, as amended, Monning. Ocean Protection Council: Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program.

The California Ocean Protection Act establishes the Ocean Protection Council and requires the council, among other things, to coordinate activities of state agencies that are related to the protection and conservation of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems, and to establish policies to coordinate the collection and sharing of scientific data related to coastal and ocean resources among agencies. The act creates the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund in the State Treasury and authorizes moneys deposited in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be expended by the council for projects and activities authorized by the council consistent with the purposes of the act.

This bill would require the council, in consultation with the State Coastal Conservancy and other relevant entities, to establish and administer the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program for the purposes of achieving specified goals. The bill would authorize moneys in the trust fund to be expended for grants or loans for projects

or activities that further public purposes consistent with the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 35630 is added to the Public Resources
2 Code, to read:

3 35630. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

4 (a) *Ocean acidification and hypoxia, an abnormal deficiency*
5 *of oxygen in marine environments, are two major threats to ocean*
6 *and coastal ecosystems globally, and west coast states are*
7 *particularly vulnerable, according to the April 2016 findings of*
8 *the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel.*

9 (b) *Ocean acidification is caused primarily by global carbon*
10 *dioxide emissions. Local carbon dioxide emissions and local*
11 *nutrient inputs can intensify the effects of ocean acidification.*

12 (c) *The West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science*
13 *Panel recommends that California and other west coast states*
14 *actively employ strategies that address local factors that can*
15 *reduce ocean acidification and hypoxia exposure, including*
16 *protecting and restoring critical coastal and aquatic habitats.*

17 ~~(a)~~

18 (d) *Eelgrass ecosystems are among the most diverse and*
19 *productive ecosystems in the world, with particular importance to*
20 *farmed shellfish aquaculture and other forms of sustainable*
21 *aquaculture and to commercially and recreationally valuable*
22 *species species, including shellfish, crabs, finfish, waterfowl, and*
23 *shorebirds.*

24 (e) *Eelgrass protection and restoration efforts help promote a*
25 *healthier ocean for ecosystems and industry.*

26 ~~(b)~~

27 (f) *Since the 1850s, 90 percent of California's eelgrass acreage*
28 *has been destroyed, and the remaining 10 percent is continuously*
29 *exposed to multiple stressors and threats.*

30 ~~(e)~~

31 (g) *Scientific research has shown that eelgrass habitat provides*
32 *multiple benefits, including the following:*

(1) Providing essential fish habitat for salmon, groundfish, and Pacific herring, providing Dungeness crab nurseries, and supporting commercial fisheries important to California's coastal economy.

(2) Improving water quality by filtering polluted runoff and by absorbing excess nutrients.

(3) Helping to mitigate ~~hypoxia, an abnormal deficiency of oxygen in marine environments.~~ *hypoxia.*

(4) Sequestering carbon in the underlying sediments.

(5) Protecting the shoreline from erosion by absorbing wave energy and helping to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise.

(h) Advancing the protection and restoration of eelgrass beds in California's coastal environments, based on scientific and evidence-based approaches, is a critical strategy in enhancing California's ability to cope with ocean acidification and hypoxia.

SEC. 2. Section 35631 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

35631. (a) To the extent funds are available from bonds or other sources, the council, in consultation with the State Coastal Conservancy and other relevant entities, shall establish and administer the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program for the purposes of achieving the following goals:

(1) Developing demonstration projects to research how important environmental and ecological factors interact across space and time to influence how geographically dispersed eelgrass beds function for carbon dioxide removal and hypoxia reduction.

(2) Generating an inventory of locations where conservation or restoration of aquatic habitats, including eelgrass, can be successfully applied to mitigate ocean acidification and hypoxia.

(3) Incorporating consideration of carbon dioxide removal during the habitat restoration planning process in order to fully account for the benefits of long-term carbon storage of habitat restoration in addition to the habitat value.

(4) Supporting science, monitoring, and coordination to ensure that ocean and coastal policy and management in California reflect best readily available science on strategies to reduce ocean acidification and hypoxia.

(b) In advancing approaches in the program to remove carbon dioxide from seawater, the council shall consider approaches that provide multiple cobenefits, including, but not limited to, providing

1 essential fish and bird habitat, improving water quality, and
2 mitigating sea level rise.

3 SEC. 3. Section 35650 of the Public Resources Code is
4 amended to read:

5 35650. (a) The California Ocean Protection Trust Fund is
6 established in the State Treasury.

7 (b) Moneys deposited in the fund may be expended, upon
8 appropriation by the Legislature, for both of the following:

9 (1) Projects and activities authorized by the council consistent
10 with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 35600).

11 (2) Upon authorization by the council, for grants or loans to
12 public agencies, nonprofit corporations, or private entities for, or
13 direct expenditures on, projects or activities that do one or more
14 of the following:

15 (A) Eliminate or reduce threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems,
16 habitats, and species.

17 (B) Improve the management of fisheries through grants or
18 loans for the development and implementation of fishery
19 management plans pursuant to Part 1.7 (commencing with Section
20 7050) of Division 6 of the Fish and Game Code, a part of the
21 Marine Life Management Act of 1998, that promote long-term
22 stewardship and collaboration with fishery participants to develop
23 strategies that increase environmental and economic sustainability.
24 Eligible projects and activities include, but are not limited to,
25 innovative community-based or cooperative management and
26 allocation strategies that create incentives for ecosystem
27 improvement. Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited
28 to, costs related to activities identified in subdivisions (a), (b), and
29 (d) of Section 7075 of the Fish and Game Code, fishery research,
30 monitoring, data collection and analysis to support adaptive
31 management, and other costs related to the development and
32 implementation of a fishery management plan developed pursuant
33 to this subparagraph.

34 (C) Foster sustainable fisheries, including grants or loans for
35 one or more of the following:

36 (i) Projects that encourage the development and use of more
37 selective fishing gear.

38 (ii) The design of community-based or cooperative management
39 mechanisms that promote long-term stewardship and collaboration

1 with fishery participants to develop strategies that increase
2 environmental and economic sustainability.

3 (iii) Collaborative research and demonstration projects between
4 fishery participants, scientists, and other interested parties.

5 (iv) Promotion of value-added wild fisheries to offset economic
6 losses attributable to reduced fishing opportunities.

7 (v) The creation of revolving loan programs for the purpose of
8 implementing sustainable fishery projects.

9 (D) Improve coastal water quality.

10 (E) Allow for increased public access to, and enjoyment of,
11 ocean and coastal resources, consistent with sustainable, long-term
12 protection and conservation of those resources.

13 (F) Improve management, conservation, and protection of
14 coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.

15 (G) Provide monitoring and scientific data to improve state
16 efforts to protect and conserve ocean resources.

17 (H) Protect, conserve, and restore coastal waters and ocean
18 ecosystems, including any of the following:

19 (i) Acquisition, installation, and initiation of monitoring and
20 enforcement systems.

21 (ii) Acquisition from willing sellers of vessels, equipment,
22 licenses, harvest rights, permits, and other rights and property, to
23 reduce threats to ocean ecosystems and resources.

24 (I) Address coastal water contamination from biological
25 pathogens, including collaborative projects and activities to identify
26 the sources of pathogens and develop detection systems and
27 treatment methods.

28 (J) (i) Provide funding for adaptive management, planning,
29 coordination, monitoring, research, and other necessary activities
30 to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on California's
31 ocean ecosystem, including, but not limited to, the effects of sea
32 level rise, changes in ocean productivity, and ocean acidification
33 on coastal and ocean habitat, wildlife, fisheries, chemistry, and
34 other key attributes of ocean ecosystems and to increase the state's
35 understanding of the ocean's role in carbon sequestration. Adaptive
36 management strategies, planning, research, monitoring, or other
37 activities shall be designed to improve the management of coastal
38 and ocean resources or aid the state to adapt to climate change
39 impacts.

1 (ii) Information or activities developed under clause (i), to the
2 extent appropriate, shall provide guidance to the State Air
3 Resources Board for the adoption of early action measures for the
4 elimination or reduction of emissions from sources or categories
5 of sources pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions
6 Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of
7 the Health and Safety Code).

8 (c) Grants or loans may be made to a private entity pursuant to
9 this section only for projects or activities that further public
10 purposes consistent with Sections 35510, 35515, 35617, 35630,
11 and 35631.

12 (d) Consistent with the purposes specified in Section 35515,
13 and in furtherance of the findings in Sections 7059 and 7060 of
14 the Fish and Game Code, the council, in authorizing grants or loans
15 for projects or expenditures pursuant to this section, shall promote
16 coordination of state programs and activities that protect and
17 conserve ocean resources to avoid redundancy and conflicts to
18 ensure that the state's programs and activities are complementary.